

STRATEGY DOCUMENT

September 2014

About the Innovation Working Group (IWG)¹

In 2010, UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon launched the Every Women and Every Child (EWEC) initiative to mobilize and intensify global action to improve the health of women and children around the world. The EWEC initiative hosted the Accountability Commission, Independent Expert Review Group, UN Commission on Life-Saving Commodities, and Innovation Working Group (IWG).

The IWG was established to advocate for, identify, and support innovations to accelerate progress on the health Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Through its flexible structure and extensive network (with over 180 members representing over 80 institutions) IWG has made the case for innovation (whether science and technology, social, business, financial or some combination of these) as game-changer for RMNCAH. In addition, IWG has produced useful reports on sustainable business models for delivering health care, engagement guide for companies, checklists for improved health care, deploying innovative medical devices in low-resource settings, nutrition for adolescent girls, mHealth and Telemedicine, and innovative financial models.

The IWG consists of a broad network of interested parties with a small secretariat, working through partner organizations. The IWG has an increasingly diverse composition and it comprises members of governmental, inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as the private sector (both for-profit and social enterprises), with everyone on an equal footing.

The IWG works in collaboration with the Private Sector Engagement team of EWEC, which is responsible for mobilising and managing private sector commitments to the EWEC platform.

¹ For more information on IWG, please visit www.everywomaneverychild.org/resources/innovation-working-group

Vision

A world in which a robust pipeline of RMNCAH innovations goes to scale in a sustainable manner to save and improve the lives of the world's most vulnerable women and children and thereby plays a critical role in helping to reach the MDGs and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Mission

In support of the Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health, the IWG shall be the global hub for innovation in the UNSG's Every Woman Every Child initiative. The IWG will catalyse the development and enable the scaling - in a sustainable manner - of RMNCAH innovations across all domains.

The IWG is uniquely positioned to contribute to a global RMNCAH innovations market place where innovations meet investors to help them transition to scale with widespread impact. Such a platform is sorely needed to address gaps significantly hampering efforts related to scaling innovation. IWG's comparative advantage is the ability to bring its member network to address issues thwarting innovation as well as to invest in the most promising innovations in the RMNCAH pipeline.

Strategy

To fulfil its mission, the IWG will:

1. Serve as a dynamic pole of innovation within EWEC and as EWEC's primary ambassador and advocate for innovation in RMNCAH,
2. Promote the leadership of countries - especially from the global South - in innovation for impact in RMNCAH,
3. Develop a strong network of private sector investors - including impact investors, venture philanthropists, angels, VC funds and multinational corporations - who seek both social and economic returns and can help to scale and sustain RMNCAH innovations in a sustainable and affordable manner, often alongside or building upon public funding.
4. Stimulate, celebrate, and to ensure accountability track progress against private sector commitments under EWEC, in collaboration with the Private Sector Engagement team of EWEC.
5. Contribute to a global RMNCAH innovations marketplace by connecting private and public investors - who seek both social and economic impact - to each other and to the growing pipeline of RMNCAH innovations supported by governments and foundations.

Deliverables

The success of IWG will depend on delivering on the following:

- Innovation is an integral part of the Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health and RMNCAH innovation is a strong focus of post-2015 agenda.
- EWEC recognized as a strong collective advocacy voice for RMNCAH innovation and it maintains an energized network with strong private and public sector representation working to stimulate RMNCAH innovations and take these innovations to scale in a sustainable manner.
- Investors use EWEC as a window to the various available pipelines of RMNCAH innovations and 3 or more RMNCAH innovations are transitioning to scale partially attributable to EWEC.